

# ENVS 500B: ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CULMINATING EXPERIENCE

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## In Workflow

1. ENVS Committee Chair (wayne.linklater@csus.edu)
2. ENVS Chair (wayne.linklater@csus.edu)
3. SSIS College Committee Chair (flamenbaum@csus.edu)
4. SSIS Dean (mendriga@csus.edu)
5. Academic Services (catalog@csus.edu)
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7. Dean of Undergraduate (gardner@csus.edu)
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9. Catalog Editor (catalog@csus.edu)
10. Registrar's Office (k.mcfarland@csus.edu)
11. PeopleSoft (PeopleSoft@csus.edu)

## Approval Path

1. Mon, 12 Jun 2023 18:28:30 GMT  
Wayne Linklater (wayne.linklater): Approved for ENVS Committee Chair
2. Tue, 12 Sep 2023 20:15:33 GMT  
Wayne Linklater (wayne.linklater): Approved for ENVS Chair
3. Sun, 08 Oct 2023 00:18:55 GMT  
Rachel Flamenbaum (flamenbaum): Rollback to ENVS Chair for SSIS College Committee Chair
4. Wed, 11 Oct 2023 20:42:34 GMT  
Wayne Linklater (wayne.linklater): Approved for ENVS Chair
5. Tue, 24 Oct 2023 22:09:52 GMT  
Rachel Flamenbaum (flamenbaum): Rollback to ENVS Chair for SSIS College Committee Chair
6. Tue, 24 Oct 2023 23:12:22 GMT  
Wayne Linklater (wayne.linklater): Approved for ENVS Chair
7. Wed, 25 Oct 2023 20:45:47 GMT  
Rachel Flamenbaum (flamenbaum): Approved for SSIS College Committee Chair
8. Thu, 26 Oct 2023 23:05:49 GMT  
Marya Endriga (mendriga): Approved for SSIS Dean
9. Wed, 01 Nov 2023 23:15:48 GMT  
Katie Hawke (katiedickson): Approved for Academic Services

## New Course Proposal

Date Submitted: Fri, 09 Jun 2023 21:58:21 GMT

**Viewing: ENVS 500B : Environmental Studies Culminating Experience**

**Last edit: Tue, 24 Oct 2023 22:59:18 GMT**

Changes proposed by: Wayne Linklater (223005380)

**Contact(s):**

Name (First Last)	Email	Phone 999-999-9999
Wayne Linklater	wayne.linklater@csus.edu	916-278-6671

**Catalog Title:**

Environmental Studies Culminating Experience

**Class Schedule Title:**

Culminating Experience

**Academic Group: (College)**

SSIS - Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Studies

**Academic Organization: (Department)**

Environmental Studies

**Will this course be offered through the College of Continuing Education (CCE)?**

No

**Catalog Year Effective:**

Fall 2024 (2024/2025 Catalog)

**Subject Area: (prefix)**

ENVS - Environmental Studies

**Catalog Number: (course number)**

500B

**Course ID: (For administrative use only.)**

TBD

**Units:**

3

**Is the only purpose of this change to update the term typically offered or the enforcement of existing requisites at registration?**

No

**In what term(s) will this course typically be offered?**

Fall, Spring, Summer

**Does this course require a room for its final exam?**

No, final exam does not require a room

**Does this course replace an existing experimental course?**

No

**This course complies with the credit hour policy:**

Yes

**Justification for course proposal:**

ENVS 500 is a culminating experience class for the new Environmental Studies Masters of Science program. It may be satisfied by the completion of a graduate project or thesis, consistent with Plan A and Plan B, respectively (as per the Master's Culminating Experience Requirement). The culminating experience serves to evaluate student's prior and current learning in a career-salient format and in a specialist sub-discipline of environmental studies that is aligned with the student's opportunity, aspiration, and interest.

Graduate research (thesis or projects) in environmental sub-disciplines vary in their time and workload requirement. Some require the measurement of phenomenon in natural environments over a seasonal or annual cycle. Others, such as those focused on questions of history or policy, are not so constrained. Some theses and projects have already well-established methods, while others begin with methodological or sampling uncertainties. Still others originate or involve work in or with other organizations. Others do not. To accommodate all this variation (providing for diversity of opportunity and students), we have designed the culminating experience to have two potential tracks requiring 'ENVS 500A only' for 3 units or 'ENVS 500A and then ENVS 500B' in a subsequent semester for 6 units.. The decision about the topic, content, objectives, and therefore track of the culminating experience is decided by the student and faculty in consultation with the graduate coordinator at its beginning. The last 3 units of ENVS 500 are taken to coincide with the last semester of the degree.

ENVS 500B courses provide structure and a timeline to help students complete the culminating project, either a written thesis or project. If this course (ENVS 500B) is elected, it is to allocate a further 3 units to continue working with a faculty advisor to meet objectives that include, but are not limited to, working toward completion of the culminating thesis/project. Because of the variety of approaches to completing these required units, and because faculty advisors will tailor workload based on student thesis or projects, syllabi will be tailored to student and thesis/project topic requirements.

**Course Description: (Not to exceed 80 words and language should conform to catalog copy.)**

The ENVS 500 requirement can involve ENVS 500A only for 3 units, or ENVS 500A and then ENVS 500B in a subsequent semester for 6 units, to coincide with the last semester of the degree. Which is applied is decided before a thesis/project begins. ENVS 500B involves the continuance of a 6-unit thesis/project, working with faculty to conduct research/project work, final analyses, illustration of outcomes, and writing results, discussion and conclusions toward submission.

**Are one or more field trips required with this course?**

No

**Fee Course?**

No

**Is this course designated as Service Learning?**

No

**Is this course designated as Curricular Community Engaged Learning?**

No

**Does this course require safety training?**

No

**Does this course require personal protective equipment (PPE)?**

No

**Does this course have prerequisites?**

Yes

**Prerequisite:**

ENVS 500A

**Prerequisites Enforced at Registration?**

Yes

**Does this course have corequisites?**

No

**Graded:**

Letter

**Approval required for enrollment?**

No Approval Required

**Course Component(s) and Classification(s):**

Supervision

**Supervision Classification**

S3/CS#25 - Practice Teaching/Workstudy/Thesis Project/Independent Study (S-factor=.5 WTU per student enrolled)

**Supervision Units**

0.5

**Is this a paired course?**

No

**Is this course crosslisted?**

No

**Can this course be repeated for credit?**

No

**Can the course be taken for credit more than once during the same term?**

No

**Description of the Expected Learning Outcomes and Assessment Strategies:**

List the Expected Learning Outcomes and their accompanying Assessment Strategies (e.g., portfolios, examinations, performances, pre-and post-tests, conferences with students, student papers). Click the plus sign to add a new row.

	Expected Learning Outcome	Assessment Strategies
1	Generate a solution to an environmental challenge by applying graduate-level skills in research methodology and natural and/or social scholarly competency.	Advisor(s) meeting summaries Project or thesis component drafts Final defense presentation Complete Thesis or Project

2	Develop a thesis or project demonstrating depth and breadth of knowledge in theory, research, and content relevant to an environmental sub-discipline.	Project or thesis component drafts Final defense presentation Complete Thesis or Project
3	Demonstrate professional written and oral communication skills in a thesis or project's presentation to peers, scholars, and community.	Final defense presentation Complete thesis or Project

**Attach a list of the required/recommended course readings and activities:**

Syllabus\_ENVS\_500\_template - revised 23 Oct.docx

**For whom is this course being developed?**

Majors in the Dept

**Is this course required in a degree program (major, minor, graduate degree, certificate?)**

Yes

**Has a corresponding Program Change been submitted to Workflow?**

Yes

**Identify the program(s) in which this course is required:**

**Programs:**

MS Environmental Studies

**Does the proposed change or addition cause a significant increase in the use of College or University resources (lab room, computer)?**

No

**Will there be any departments affected by this proposed course?**

No

**I/we as the author(s) of this course proposal agree to provide a new or updated accessibility checklist to the Dean's office prior to the semester when this course is taught utilizing the changes proposed here.**

I/we agree

**University Learning Goals**

**Graduate (Masters) Learning Goals:**

- Disciplinary knowledge
- Communication
- Critical thinking/analysis
- Information literacy
- Professionalism
- Intercultural/Global perspectives
- Research (optional)

**Is this course required as part of a teaching credential program, a single subject, or multiple subject waiver program (e.g., Liberal Studies, Biology) or other school personnel preparation program (e.g., School of Nursing)?**

No

**Is this a Graduate Writing Intensive (GWI) course?**

No

**Reviewer Comments:**

Rachel Flamenbaum (flamenbaum) (Sun, 08 Oct 2023 00:18:55 GMT): Rollback: pls see email

Rachel Flamenbaum (flamenbaum) (Tue, 24 Oct 2023 22:09:52 GMT): Rollback: per request

Key: 14934